



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 1236

LCO No. 4078

04078_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REIMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Public Health shall enter into discussions with states participating in
3 the I-SaveRx prescription drug program implemented by the state of
4 Illinois in October 2004, for the purpose of establishing, not later than
5 January 1, 2006, a memorandum of understanding between the state of
6 Connecticut and the state of Illinois that allows all Connecticut
7 residents to purchase prescription drugs through the program.

8 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the
9 Commission of Pharmacy and the Attorney General, shall:

10 (1) Evaluate the I-SaveRx prescription drug program for the
11 purpose of assessing whether the proposed terms of the memorandum
12 of understanding with the state of Illinois would maintain the current
13 level of safety and quality assurance afforded Connecticut residents
14 with respect to the purchase of prescription drugs and whether the
15 proposed terms would provide Connecticut residents who enroll in the

16 program access to more affordable prescription drugs.

17 (2) Not later than one month after the effective date of this section,
18 and every two months thereafter, submit written reports to the joint
19 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
20 matters relating to public health detailing the status of negotiations
21 with the state of Illinois with respect to the memorandum of
22 understanding and, upon implementation of the program in
23 Connecticut, an analysis of participation in the program by
24 Connecticut residents.

25 (c) Upon implementation of the I-SaveRx prescription drug program
26 in Connecticut, the Commissioner of Social Services shall convene a
27 working group comprised of the Commissioners of Public Health,
28 Health Care Access, Social Services and Consumer Protection, or their
29 designees, and a member of the Commission of Pharmacy. The
30 working group shall be responsible for (1) submitting
31 recommendations to the Governor and to the joint standing
32 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
33 relating to public health and appropriations and the budgets of state
34 agencies concerning the amount of funding necessary to adequately
35 publicize and market the program; (2) developing communications
36 and marketing tools for the program, including enrollment forms,
37 explanatory brochures, a website and promotional items; and (3)
38 directing outreach and material distribution to all health care
39 providers and relevant health care associations.

40 (d) If a memorandum of understanding allowing all Connecticut
41 residents to purchase prescription drugs through the I-SaveRx
42 prescription drug program is not established on or before January 15,
43 2006, the Commissioner of Public Health shall submit, in accordance
44 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a written
45 report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
46 cognizance of matters relating to public health specifying the reasons
47 why purchasing drugs through the program (1) would reduce the level

48 of safety and quality assurance currently afforded Connecticut
49 residents with respect to the purchase of prescription drugs, or (2)
50 would not provide Connecticut residents with greater access to more
51 affordable prescription drugs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the state of Connecticut to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the state of Illinois to allow all Connecticut residents to purchase prescription drugs through the I-SaveRx prescription drug reimportation program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]